whereby the display housing may be rotated to a selectable angular position and remain in the selected position.

7. The portable computer of claim **6** wherein the first end of the torsion spring protrudes axially from the torsion spring.

8. The portable computer of claim **6** in which the selectable angular position is selectable from the range of at least 50 degrees to 140 degrees.

9. The portable computer of claim **6** further comprising a bearing element slidably engaged with the pivot shaft and the torsion spring.

10. The portable computer of claim **6** wherein the pivot shaft has an inner diameter sized to allow a cable to be slidably engaged with the pivot shaft.

11. A portable computer comprising:

a base;

a display; and

a hinge coupling the display to the base, the hinge including a pivot shaft coupled to the display, a coiled torsion spring that tends to urge the display relative to the base so as to exert a force therebetween, the spring having a first end and a second end, the spring slidably engaged with the pivot shaft, a mechanism for constraining the first end of the torsion spring relative to the display, a clutch mechanism coupled to the base and having a first inner surface for slidably engaging the pivot shaft, the first inner surface of the clutch mechanism being sized to fit tightly around the pivot shaft so as to continuously resist rotation of the pivot shaft, and a mechanism for constraining the second end of the torsion spring.

12. The computer of claim **11** in which:

the base and display define a base-display angle; and

a torque exerted by the torsion spring on the display substantially matches a second torque exerted by gravity on the display, when the base is horizontal, for a range of base-display angles.

13. The computer of claim **11** in which said range spans at least 40 degrees.

14. The computer of claim **11** in which said range of base-display angles is from about 50 to about 140 degrees.

15. The computer of claim **11** in which the hinge additionally includes a mechanism having a first inner surface with a plurality of grooves, the first inner surface for providing rotational friction.

* * * * *